

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH**



**November, 2010**

# INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## 2010

Senator David Long

Vice-Chairperson

Fort Wayne

Speaker B. Patrick Bauer

Chairperson

South Bend

Senator Vi Simpson

Bloomington

Representative Brian Bosma

Indianapolis

Senator Brandt Hershman

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Senator Connie Lawson

Danville

Representative Dale Grubb

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Representative Russell Stilwell

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Senator Connie Sipes

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Representative William Friend

Macy

Senator Timothy Lanane

Anderson

Representative Kathy Richardson

Noblesville

John M. Ross  
Executive Director  
Legislative Services Agency

# COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

## Membership Roster

### Senators

Connie Lawson  
Danville

Timothy Skinner  
Terre Haute

### Representatives

Charlie Brown, Chairperson  
Gary

Cindy Noe  
Indianapolis

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### Laymembers

Kathleen O'Connell  
Roanoke

Margie Payne  
Indianapolis

Valerie Markley  
Bloomington

Caroline Doebbling  
Indianapolis

Chris Taelman  
South Bend

Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes  
Gary

Stacey Cornett  
Batesville

Ronda Ames  
Indianapolis

Bryan Lett  
South Bend

Kurt Carlson  
Warsaw

Jane Horn  
Richmond

Rhonda Boyd-Alstott  
New Albany

### Staff

Susan Kennell  
Attorney for the Commission

Bill Brumbach  
Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

## **I. STATUTORY AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVES**

The Commission on Mental Health is established by IC 12-21-6.5 to do the following:

- (1) Study and evaluate the funding system for mental health services in Indiana.
- (2) Review and make specific recommendations regarding the provision of mental health services delivered by community providers and state operated hospitals. The review and recommendations must cover services to all age groups including children, youth, and adults.
- (3) Review and make recommendations regarding any unmet need for public supported mental health services:
  - (A) in any specific geographic area; or
  - (B) throughout Indiana.

In formulating recommendations, the commission shall consider the need, feasibility, and desirability of including additional organizations in the network of providers of mental health services.

- (4) Monitor the implementation of managed care for the mentally ill that is paid for in part or in whole by the state.
- (5) Make recommendations regarding the commission's findings to the appropriate division or department of state government.

The Legislative Council assigned the following additional responsibilities to the Commission:

- A. Issues surrounding youth suicides (SCR 3, SEA 226-2010);
- B. The flow of medical information on inmates between local units of government and the Department of Correction (SCR 3);
- C. Changes to Medicaid Rehabilitation Option (MRO) and shifts in services caused by funding changes (SCR 3);
- D. A single drug formulary for Medicaid and the Department of Correction (SCR 3); and
- E. The mental health and addiction services available to children in the Evansville area, including the following:
  - (1) quality of the care provided to patients in the Evansville State Hospital and the Evansville State Psychiatric Treatment Center for Children;
  - (2) utilization of the facilities and the cause for any underutilization; and
  - (3) viability and need for the Evansville State Hospital and the Evansville State Psychiatric Treatment Center for Children (SB 2).

## **II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>

The Commission met on August 19, 2010, September 7, 2010, and October 27, 2010.

At the August 19, 2010, meeting, the Commission received a presentation from the Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana, Statewide Juvenile Mental Health Screening Assessment and Treatment Pilot Project; heard a discussion of issues relating to abuse of incarcerated youth; took extensive testimony concerning the issue of teen suicide; and took testimony on the issues surrounding budget cuts to the Residential Care Assistance Program (RCAP).

At the September 7, 2010, meeting, the Commission received an update on the RCAP program issues; more information on the Youth Law T.E.A.M. program; an update on the flow of medical information between local sheriffs and the Department of Correction (DOC); an update on the issues surrounding the drug formulary used by DOC; an update on Medicaid Rehabilitation Option (MRO); and a report on plans for state operated facilities.

At the October 27, 2010, meeting, the Commission received follow-up information from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA); a presentation on housing issues relating to individuals with mental illness; and considered legislative proposals and the final report.

### **III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

Complete minutes for this Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

August 19, 2010

The Commission received an update from the Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana, Statewide Juvenile Mental Health Screening Assessment and Treatment Pilot Project. Ms. JuaNae Hanger and Dr. Matt Aaslima discussed the progress of the pilot project. This is the final year of the pilot project, which has expanded from five juvenile detention centers to include 14 of the 22 centers in the state. At the end of this year the project will be making a final report, including legislative proposals for future years.

The Department of Correction and the Juvenile Justice Task Force presented information on the issue of the abuse of incarcerated youth. Mr. Tim Brown, Mr. Michael Dempsey, and Dr. Andrea Hall of the DOC informed the Commission that the number of incarcerated youth has been declining over the last several years due to the availability of more services in local communities. The DOC has a zero tolerance policy for abuse. Mr. Bill Glick, Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Task Force, discussed the impact of abuse on the mental health of youth who are abused while incarcerated. Mr. Glick reported that there is very little specific information on this issue. He stated that incarcerated children are wards of the State and that makes the State responsible for their safety.

In response to the mandate of the Legislative Council that the Commission consider the issue of teen suicide, Senator Patricia Miller discussed legislation she had introduced in the 2010 session of the General Assembly providing for education of teachers in the prevention of teen suicide. The concept of providing training for educators on recognizing symptoms of teen suicide was

supported by the Indiana State Teachers Association, the Indiana School Boards Association, the Indiana Association of School Principals, and the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, all of whom provided testimony. Ms. Bre England, guidance counselor at Warren Central High School, testified on the importance of training for educators on teen suicide issues. Ms. Gina Eckart, DMHA, and Dr. Joan Duwve, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) discussed a joint DMHA and ISDH suicide prevention survey conducted by the state. Ms. Joni Irwin, the Jason Foundation, discussed the importance of providing education for teachers in recognizing signs that a teen could be considering suicide and stressed the importance of training for educators. Ms. Colleen Carpenter provided the Commission with information on the Indiana Cares Youth Suicide Prevention Technical Assistance Center operated at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. Mr. Scott Fritz shared his experience with the loss of his child to suicide.

Ms. Faith Laird discussed the budget cuts made to the Residential Care Assistance Program (RCAP). FSSA has instituted a freeze on new admissions to the program. The current rate is \$49.35 a day which. However, due to the freeze on admissions, fewer individuals are receiving assistance. The result has been that facilities cannot fill vacant beds when someone leaves. Mr. Randall Fearnow, Krieg DeVault, reported that several facilities are in danger of closing due to the cuts. There was discussion that the loss of the RCAP alternative will put pressure on other providers who will need to pick up the slack. There was also concern that alternatives to the RCAP program are more expensive than the RCAP program.

September 7, 2010

Mr. Nick Petrone, Aging Administration of FSSA, reported that little had changed from the last meeting concerning the RCAP issue. He said that the difficult economic condition of the state has forced FSSA to redirect money to those most in need. Mr. Randall Fearnow updated the Commission on the impact on local facilities of the cuts in funding. Mr. Robert Krumweid from the Regional Mental Health Center in Lake County echoed Mr. Fearnow's comments on the negative impact of the loss of funding for RCAP, which could cause facilities to close and force individuals in need of services to return to the streets.

Ms. JauNae Hanger and Ms. Amy Karozos provided the members with additional information on the screening program. They reported that costs to the detention centers for participating are mostly related to computer costs. The success of the screening program depends not only on screening but also on the availability of adequate services in the communities.

In response to a mandate from the Legislative Council, Mr. Steve Luce of the Indiana Sheriff's' Association discussed the improvements in communication between local sheriffs and the DOC in providing medical information for inmates transferred to the DOC. Mr. Kenneth Whitker reiterated Mr. Luce's comments concerning improved communications.

In response to a mandate from the Legislative Council, Mr. Steve McCaffrey, Mental Health America of Indiana, reported on the Mental Health /Corrections Quality Advisory Committee

created by legislation recommended by the Commission on Mental Health to advise the DOC on the drugs used to treat inmates with mental illness and addictions. Members have been appointed to the Committee. Representatives from Correctional Medical Services (CMS) discussed issues with using the Medicaid formulary. Their testimony centered around the use of drugs in the private sector. They expressed concern that if an expensive drug is used during incarceration but, due to cost, is not available to the individual upon release, the individual has not been given the best care.

Ms. Gina Eckart and Ms. Sarah Jagger updated the Commission on MRO. They indicated that while there were issues of timely response to providers when the program was rolled out, much of that has been worked out. Mr. Matt Brooks indicated that, for the most part, the roll out has gone smoothly.

Mr. Steve McCaffrey discussed the Lawson Select Group on Mental Health, which was formed to consider issues in moving the state toward a more integrated system of service. Additionally, Mr McCaffrey said that there has been progress made in funding for the clubhouse programs which the Commission studied in the 2009 interim.

Ms. Gina Eckart and Mr. Kevin Moore discussed plans for changes to the state hospitals. There will be major changes for Logansport and Richmond State Hospitals. No hospitals are going to be closed or privatized. Individuals with developmental disabilities who are now receiving services at Logansport and Richmond are going to be placed back in the communities. The process will begin in October of 2010. Dr. Eric Wright discussed a study of patients who left Central State Hospital when it was closed.

Ms. Hariette Rosen, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), expressed concerns that when the hospitals are downsized, there should be plans to provide that the money follows the individuals into the community programs.

October 27, 2010

Legislative proposals were discussed.

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| PD 3419 | Various Mental Health Issues - Senator Lawson presented this draft at the request of the DMHA to clean up issues relating to the definition of "continuum of care" and "managed care", and to make changes in the distribution of federal alcohol funds. |
| PD 3081 | Suicide Prevention Training - Representative Charlie Brown and Senator Patricia Miller proposed this legislation to provide for training teachers on how to identify students who may be in danger of committing suicide.                                |
| PD 3049 | Extends the Commission on Mental Health for Five Years - Representative Brown requested this legislation.  |
| PD 3384 | Medicaid Coverage of Services of Clinical Addiction Counselors - Ms. Amy Levander and Ms. Jean Scallon discussed the importance of providing Medicaid coverage for services of clinical addiction counselors.  |

PD 3082 Council on Evansville State Hospitals - Senator Vaneta Becker discussed formalizing a group of Evansville legislators, interested individuals, and the DMHA to discuss the provision of mental health services in the Evansville area. (This was considered as part of the mandate for study topics from the Legislative Council.)

Concurrent Resolution Support for Medicaid Quality Advisory Committee - Mr. Steve McCaffrey requested that the COMH support the continuation of the Medicaid Quality Advisory Committee.

Ms. Gina Eckart updated the COMH on the downsizing of the state hospitals and reported that the DMHA had held job fairs for employees and patient fairs for individuals who will be returning to local communities.

Ms. Sherry Seiwert, Mr. Rodney Stockment, and Ms. Marti Knisley provided the COMH with information on programs providing permanent housing to individuals in need of housing assistance on a long term basis.

The final report was adopted.

#### **IV. COMMISSION FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Commission recommended the following bill drafts and resolution:

PD 3419	Various Mental Health Issues
PD 3081	Suicide Prevention Training
PD 3049	Extends the Commission on Mental Health for Five Years
PD 3384	Medicaid Coverage of Services of Clinical Addiction Counselors
PD 3082	Council on Evansville State Hospitals
Concurrent Resolution	Support for Medicaid Quality Advisory Committee



## WITNESS LIST

August 19, 2010

Ms. JuaNae Hanger, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana  
Dr. Matt Aaslma, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana  
Mr. Tim Brown, DOC  
Mr. Michael Dempsey, DOC  
Dr. Andrea Hall, DOC  
Mr. Bill Glick, Juvenile Justice Task Force  
Senator Patricia Miller  
Ms. Bre England, Warren Central High School  
Ms. Nancy Papas, Indiana State Teachers Association  
Dr. Frank Bush, Indiana School Boards Association  
Mr. Gerald Mohr, Indiana Association of School Principals  
Mr. John Ellis, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents  
Ms. Gina Eckart, FSSA, DMHA  
Dr. Joan Duwve, State Department of Health  
Ms. Joni Irwin, The Jason Foundation  
Ms. Colleen Carpenter, Indiana Cares Youth Suicide Prevention  
Mr. Scott Fritz, Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide  
Ms. Faith Larid, Division of Aging, FSSA  
Mr. Randall Fearnow, Krieg DeVault

September 7, 2010

Mr. Nick Petrone, Division of Aging, FSSA  
Mr. Randall Fearnow, Krieg DeVault  
Mr. Robert Krumweid, Regional Mental Health Center in Lake County  
Mr. JauNae Hanger Youth Law T.E.A.M.  
Ms. Amy Karozos, Youth Law T.E.A.M.  
Mr. Steve Luce, Indiana Sheriffs' Association  
Mr. Kenneth Whitker, DOC  
Mr. Steve McCaffrey, Mental Health America of Indiana  
Mr. John Dallas, CMS  
Mr. Michael Mitcheff, CMS  
Mr. Jamie Wiles, CMS  
Dr. Vickie Burding, CMS  
Dr. Willis Triplett, CMS  
Ms. Gina Eckart, DMHA, FSSA  
Dr. Eric Wright, IU Center of Health Policy  
Ms. Sarah Jagger, OMPP, FSSA  
Mr. Matt Brooks, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers  
Mr. Kevin Moore, DMHA  
Ms. Hariette Rosen, NAMI

October 27, 2010

Ms. Gina Eckart, DMHA, FSSA

Ms. Sherry Seiwert, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

Mr. Rodney Stockment, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

Ms. Marti Knisley, Community Support Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.

Senator Vaneta Becker

Mr. Steve McCaffrey, Mental Health America of Indiana

Ms. Amy Flack, Krieg DeVault

Ms. Jean Scallon, Bloomington Meadows